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March 12, 2001 LB 114

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: ...street people, I don't like the word winos, so I'll use the word street people who live on the street and have problems with alcohol, most of them drink in the street, alleys, under bridges, wherever they can.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now do you think it would be better if they were to drink in church?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: No, I do not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then why do you make an exemption for young people to drink in church but not an exemption for them to drink in the alley?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Because I see it as a sacrament.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What is a sacrament, drinking in the alley?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Receiving wine is a...as a method or a substitute for receiving the blood of Christ.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And what does that wine...why is it necessary to have an alcoholic liquor to do that?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: It's not necessary. A lot of churches use grape juice.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We're talking in this bill, though, not about grape juice. We're talking about an alcoholic liquor, an alcoholic beverage, and wine is the name. Is the term wine applied to alcoholic beverages or nonalcoholic?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Alcoholic beverages.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So why would we restrict the alcoholic beverage which can be used in religious services to wine? Why should we do that?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Because of tradition and what the churches have as their method of receiving the blood of Christ.